

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of immunizing a vertebrate against ~~a virus selected from an influenza virus and a rotavirus~~, said method comprising administering to a vertebrate, prior to infection by an influenza virus, a composition consisting essentially of a plurality of the same plasmid vectors in a physiologically acceptable medium, the plasmid vectors comprising DNA encoding an influenza virus antigen ~~or a rotavirus antigen~~ operatively linked to DNA which is a promoter, whereby a protective immune response comprising a humoral immune response, a cell-mediated immune response, or both is elicited against the antigen, to protect the vertebrate against a subsequent infection by an influenza virus ~~or a rotavirus~~.
2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the promoter of the plasmid vectors is of nonretroviral origin.
3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the promoter of the plasmid vectors is of retroviral origin.
- 4-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 [[6]], wherein the antigen is an influenza virus hemagglutinin.
- 8.-10. (Canceled)
11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the vertebrate is a mammal.
12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the mammal is a human.

13. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to a vertebrate through a route of administration selected from the group consisting of: intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intradermal and subcutaneous.

14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition is administered to a vertebrate by contacting the composition to a mucosal surface of the vertebrate.

15 - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 14 [[17]], wherein the mucosal surface is a respiratory mucosal surface.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the respiratory mucosal surface is a nasal mucosal surface.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the respiratory mucosal surface is a tracheal mucosal surface.

23 - 31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A method of immunizing a vertebrate against ~~a virus selected from an influenza virus and a rotavirus~~, said method comprising administering parenterally to the vertebrate, prior to infection by an influenza virus, a plurality of the same plasmid vectors comprising DNA encoding an influenza virus antigen ~~or a rotavirus antigen~~ operatively linked to DNA which is a promoter ~~region~~, wherein the plasmid vectors are administered with a gene gun, thereby eliciting a protective immune response comprising a humoral or cell-mediated immune response, or both, against the antigen, whereby the vertebrate is protected from disease caused by a subsequent infection by the virus.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the route of administration is chosen from the group consisting of intramuscular, intradermal and subcutaneous.

34. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the promoter of the plasmid vectors is of nonretroviral origin.

35. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the promoter of the plasmid vectors is of retroviral origin.

36 - 37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 32 [[37]], wherein the antigen is an influenza virus hemagglutinin.

39 - 41. (Canceled)

42. (Original) The method of Claim 32, wherein the vertebrate is a mammal.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein the mammal is a human.

44 - 56. (Canceled)

57. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the promoter of the plasmid vectors comprises a cytomegalovirus promoter.

58. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the promoter of the plasmid vectors comprises a cytomegalovirus promoter.